

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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R 071500Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2810

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, MO, XA

SUBJECT: MAHJOUB BEN SEDDIK AND THE ALL AFRICA TRADE UNION
FEDERATION

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH LABOFF AND DURING MAY
31-JUNE 4 VISIT OF IRVING BROWN AND AALC DIRECTOR O'FARRELL,
UNION MAROCAINE DU TRAVAIL (UMT) SEC GEN MAHJOUB BEN
SEDDIK HAS REPEATEDLY UNDERSCORED HIS DISENCHANTMENT WITH
AATUF WHICH HE FOUNDED AND STILL HEADS.

2. BEN SEDDIK'S CRITICISMS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- A. MOST MEMBER UNIONS ARE CREATURES OF THEIR GOVERN-
MENTS, ENJOYING LITTLE OR NO INDEPENDENCE.
- B. ONLY THE UMT AND THE ALGERIAN UGTA HAVE PAID THEIR
DUES THIS YEAR; AATUF IS BEING SUBSIDIZED BY THE
ARAB WORKERS OF THE MAGHREB.
- C. MANY AATUF LEADERS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN LINING
THEIR OWN POCKETS AND IN ATTENDING CONFERENCE ABROAD
THAN IN FURTHERING THE LOT OF THE WORKING CLASS.

3. BEN SEDDIK SAYS HE IS TRYING TO GET THE ALGERIANS TO
PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN AATUF (PRESUMABLY IN FINANCING
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IT) BUT THAT THUS FAR THE UGTA HAS NOT SHOWN MUCH INTEREST.

4. COMMENT: EVEN WHEN TAKEN WITH A SIZABLE GRAIN OF SALT, BEN SEDDIK'S DISILLUSIONMENT WITH AATUF SEEMS TO HAVE GROWN SO EXTREME AS TO PRECLUDE HIS PURSUING AN AGGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THAT ORGANIZATION. OUR GUESS IS THAT FALTERING FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF HIS MALAISE.
BRUBECK

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